

What is claimed is:

1. A mixture of derivatized malto-oligosaccharide species prepared by a method  
5 comprising the steps of:

providing a mixture of a plurality of malto-oligosaccharide species;

catalytically hydrogenating said mixture under hydrogenation conditions suitable to  
substantially preserve the DP profile of said mixture to thereby obtain a hydrogenated malto-  
oligosaccharide mixture, wherein said mixture is hydrogenated to DE of essentially zero; and

- 10 derivatizing said hydrogenated malto-oligosaccharide mixture to thereby form said  
derivatized malto-oligosaccharide mixture.

2. The mixture of claim 1, said derivatizing comprising oxidizing said mixture.

15 3. The mixture of claim 1, said derivatizing comprising esterifying said mixture.

4. The mixture of claim 1, said derivatizing comprising etherifying said mixture.

20 5 The mixture of claim 1, said derivatizing comprising enzymatically modifying  
said mixture.

6. A mixture of derivatized malto-oligosaccharide prepared by a method  
comprising the steps of:

25 providing a hydrogenated malto-oligosaccharide mixture, said mixture having been  
prepared by catalytically hydrogenating a mixture of malto-oligosaccharide species to a DE  
of essentially zero under hydrogenation conditions suitable to substantially preserve the DP  
profile of said mixture; and

derivatizing said hydrogenated malto-oligosaccharide mixture to thereby form said  
derivatized malto-oligosaccharide mixture

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7. The mixture of claim 6, said derivatizing comprising oxidizing said mixture.

8. The mixture of claim 6, said derivatizing comprising esterifying said mixture.

35 9. The mixture of claim 6, said derivatizing comprising etherifying said mixture.

10. The mixture of claim 6, said derivatizing comprising enzymatically modifying  
said mixture.

11. A method for preparing a mixture of derivatized malto-oligosaccharides, comprising the steps of:

5 providing a hydrogenated malto-oligosaccharide mixture, said mixture having been prepared by catalytically hydrogenating a mixture of malto-oligosaccharide species to a DE of essentially zero under hydrogenation conditions suitable to substantially preserve the DP profile of said mixture; and

10 derivatizing said hydrogenated malto-oligosaccharide mixture to thereby form said derivatized malto-oligosaccharide mixture.

12. The method of claim 11, said derivatizing comprising oxidizing said mixture

13. The method of claim 11, said derivatizing comprising esterifying said mixture.

14. The method of claim 11, said derivatizing comprising etherifying said mixture.

15. The method of claim 11, said derivatizing comprising enzymatically modifying said mixture.

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